

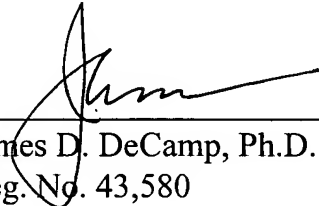
## REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims as annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report (dated September 24, 2004; copy enclosed) in order to reduce the number of claims. Applicants note that there is no intention to abandon any subject matter with regard to the deleted matter. Applicants have also amended the specification to cross-reference related applications. No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

If there are any additional charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 23 December 2004

  
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